

Reginald Tanner

Leading Telegraphist, Royal Navy. Joined the Navy, 1914. Served on *H.M.S. Tipperary* with Grand Fleet, in North Sea. Killed in action at the Battle of Jutland, June, 1916. Jutland Medal, General Service and Victory Medals.



REGINALD EDWIN TANNER was born in Corsham in May 1896. His father Alfred George Tanner, also a Corsham man, was a farm labourer and his mother was Annie (née Brooks). In 1901 the family were living in Easton, next door to the Roebuck Inn. Reginald was the eldest son but by that time he also had a brother George and a sister Winifred, also born in Corsham. In 1911, when Reginald was 14, the family were living at Smithfields Cottages in Easton; Alfred was now recorded as a shepherd and there was another sister, Gladys Maud.

Reginald must have enlisted in the Navy when he was 17, and the only records show that he was a Leading Telegraphist on the destroyer *HMS Tipperary* at the Battle of Jutland on 1st June 1916, when the flotilla that it led was involved in heavy and close battle with the main German Battle Fleet. *HMS Tipperary* and many other British destroyers were lost in that engagement, which was the largest naval battle of World War I. Fourteen British ships were lost in the battle. Leading Telegraphist Tanner was one of 185 men lost when *Tipperary* was sunk – only 12 survived. Reginald was only just 20. He and his colleagues on *HMS Tipperary* are remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.